

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-41 and 74-83 are pending in this application. Claims 1-41 are allowed.

Applicants have amended claim 74. Support for the amendment is found at least at column 3, lines 54-57. Amended claim 74 is now allowable over Hiroshi which does not teach or suggest the recited feature of determining whether one or more regions within a digital image are suspected as including red eye artifact, including *analyzing a shape of a first pixel surrounding a region that is red in color and foregoing shape analysis of a second pixel determined not to be surrounding a region that is red in color*. The analyzing of a shape of a pixel surrounding a regions that is red in color and corresponding foregoing of shape analysis of a region determined not to be surrounding a region that is red in color provides greatly advantageous efficiency particularly in a portable digital image acquisition device. Claims 75-83 are allowable as being dependent from amended claim 74.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner's reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Please charge any additional required fee or credit any overpayment not otherwise paid or credited to our deposit account No. 50-4399.

Respectfully submitted,

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